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Work and Workers

THE University of Manchester, England, has recently established a faculty of theology. Professor Arthur S. Peake is the dean of the faculty.

PROFESSOR W. M. RAMSAY has recently published a volume containing in enlarged form the articles which have been appearing in the *Expository Times* dealing with the Seven Churches of Asia.

THE *Hibbert Journal* for January contains the third and conclusive article by Professor B. W. Bacon, of Yale, upon "The Fourth Gospel." It is to be hoped that these essays will be published in book-form.

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS announce the immediate publication of two theological works of the first importance: Sabatier's *The Doctrine of the Atonement and Religion, and Modern Culture*, and Harnack's *The Expansion of Christianity in the First Three Centuries*.

REV. W. P. BEHAN, Ph.D., pastor of the Wealthy Avenue Church, Grand Rapids, Mich., has been elected director of the Baptist Students' Guild of Ann Arbor. He will succeed Dr. Allan T. Hoben, who has recently accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Detroit.

THE interest in the question of students for the ministry seems to be becoming more widespread; nor is it confined to religious publications. The *World's Work* recently published an article on the subject by Dr. E. T. Tomlinson, and *The World To-Day*, another by President W. R. Harper.

THE Second Florida Winter Bible Conference will be held at Gainesville, Fla., February 5-20. The Christian Worker's Institute follows the conference, closing March 1. Among the speakers will be J. Wilbur Chapman, A. C. Dixon, E. I. D. Pepper, W. E. Blackstone, and Mrs. Margaret Bottome.

THE new *Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels* which is being edited by Dr. James Hastings is already well under way. No announcement has been made as to the time of the publication of the first volume, but it undoubtedly will appear during the current year. The purpose of this new dictionary is to do for the gospels what the editor's great *Dictionary of the Bible* has done for the Bible as a whole.

THE annual convention of the Religious Education Association, which is to be held in Boston February 12-16, has already been noticed in these pages. Attention should again be called to it, as its sessions promise to

be of remarkable interest. Arrangements have been made for a special train, a duplicate of the Lake Shore Limited, to leave Chicago, for the convenience of delegates. A reduced rate of a fare and one-third for the round trip has been secured. It is to be hoped that many from the West will go to the Convention.

ENCOURAGING progress is being made in the formation of local guilds of the Religious Education Association. In the Hyde Park Guild of Chicago, to cite but one instance, there are nearly three hundred active members, a special committee in every church and district, a lecture course averaging two hundred in attendance, and a teacher-training course averaging one hundred in attendance. A small teachers' library is in circulation, and steady progress is being made by the Sunday schools of the district, although this is only the first year of the work.

AMONG the various agencies tending toward a better theological knowledge are the ministers' institutes which are being conducted by various denominations. As successful as any are those held during the month of June by the Methodist church in the South. The systematic extension of theological education of which these institutes are a part is also being extended by the correspondence school connected with the theological department of Vanderbilt University. This work, first tried as an experiment under the direction of Jesse L. Cuninggim, became at once a remarkable success, and is already bearing fruit throughout the South.

THE New York Sunday School Commission of the Episcopal church is a large factor in the present advance in Sunday-school methods. It was under its auspices that a few years ago the very stimulating book *Principles of Religious Education* appeared as a series of lectures, and now it has begun the publication of a *Quarterly Bulletin*, the first number of which appeared in December, 1904. While specially devoted to the interest of the Episcopal church, the *Bulletin* contains material of much value for all those interested in religious education. The recent number contains specimens of graded curricula, with the necessary literature.

HOW A SMALL SUNDAY SCHOOL WAS GRADED

A FEW years ago the pastor of a small country church said to a certain Sunday-school worker who had had considerable success in the grading and administration of a large Sunday school: "Your work is different from ours. When you make your methods succeed in a small school, then you can help us in our work." This remark only voices the prevalent idea that a comprehensive system of grading cannot be used in a school of

less than one hundred members. Yet this has been done, imperfectly but effectively, in a school of only fifty pupils, situated in a village of about three hundred inhabitants, one-half of whom are Roman Catholics. Since there could be no great growth in numbers here, energy could be devoted to increasing the efficiency of the religious instruction in the school.

The school was graded according to a system which required seven grades, the pupils remaining in the lower grades two years, in the upper grades three years. The Bible Study Union lessons were used throughout, quarterly examinations were instituted, and teachers' meetings held. The first grade was taught by kindergarten methods, using the sand-tray and kindergarten occupations. The first year there were no pupils in the third grade or the seventh grade, though these grades were provided in the system. The second year the school had pupils in all grades except the seventh. By various adaptations the work of the school was thus made as efficient as was possible with untrained teachers of limited education. Greater interest was aroused, and the Bible was really studied where before it had been scarcely glanced at. For two years this school received first prize for doing the best work in its own district, though in competition with many larger and apparently better equipped schools.

The work has been carried on in this way for four years now, and with increasing success, though the pastor who started it is no longer with the church. The few workers have grasped the idea, and have continued the work on their own responsibility and by the use of the same methods. The system of grading used here is not as elaborate as that employed in many other and larger schools; yet in any school, no matter how small, it is possible to introduce true gradation and make it successful. Even if there were fifty grades and only one pupil, that one pupil could be passed from grade to grade and run the whole gamut of the grades in the course of time. Numbers may give greater enthusiasm, but a small school may be made proportionately more effective because it is possible to be more intimately acquainted with the needs of the pupils.

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